



Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division
2630 Airport Road
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Helena MT 59620-0507

SENATE JUDICIARY
Exhibit No. 2 Jim Lynch, Director
Date 2-7-88 Brian Schweigert, Governor
Bill No. SB 318

Testimony Senate Bill 318

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Debbie Alke, Administrator, MDT Aeronautics Division.

MDT supports SB 318 as it adds protection to Montana landowners who choose to open their private airstrip to public use.

MDT produces a state aeronautical chart for use by pilots navigating in our great state. Passage of this legislation will assist MDT in encouraging private airstrip owners to show these airstrips on the chart. Depiction of these airstrips provides invaluable safety and emergency use information should a pilot encounter a problem, near an unknown, private airstrip.

MDT is also first response for air search and rescue in the state. We operate with a volunteer network of over 600 pilots dispersed throughout Montana. With an average of close to 100 incidents each year; having as much knowledge as possible on the location of private airstrips in this state and aircraft that are located at those airstrips assists these efforts immensely. This legislation could help supply beneficial information to this mission.

For these reasons and those stated before me, I ask for your support of SB318.